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A scripting service receives requests from a browser client that includes an executing web browser. The request is then translated into a command line interface (CLI) command. The CLI command may be displayed for a user to understand how browser requests are translated into corresponding CLI commands. In addition, a translated command may be stored in a script of other translated commands. The script may be stored persistently for subsequent use. The script may also be passed to a CLI client for execution. The scripting service is especially well adapted for use with web based application such as a management application that manages items in a distributed environment.